

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES NEWS RELEASE



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2013 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 5 Summer Announcement # 5, YRDFA Teleconference: Chinook Bycatch Discussion Districts Affected: Yukon River

Yukon River In-Season Management Teleconferences Start June 4: First Call on Chinook salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea Pollock Fishery

**Teleconferences Every Tuesday
June 4 through August 27, 2013
1:00 PM Alaska time / 2:00 PM Yukon time
Toll free call in number: 1-800-315-6338
Participant code: 98566#**

On an annual basis, the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA) hosts inseason management teleconferences to discuss the fishing conditions, salmon run assessment and management strategies.

The inseason salmon management teleconferences start this year on June 4, 2013 and go through the months of June, July and August, with the last teleconference scheduled for August 27, 2013.

The teleconferences start promptly at 1:00 p.m. Alaska time. Please call in 5 minutes early at 12:55 p.m. Alaska time to join the call.

While the main purpose of the inseason management teleconference calls are to discuss in-river salmon fisheries management, the first call of the 2013 salmon fishing season will cover the important topic of Chinook salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea.

The call on June 4 will start promptly at 1:00 p.m. due to time constraints with the guest speakers - Nicole Kimball, the Federal Fisheries Coordinator in the Commissioner's office for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and Diana Stram, Plan Coordinator for the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (the Council). The teleconference will not start with the usual roll call and updates on the river as it has in years past. Instead, Nicole Kimball and Diana Stram will give an overview of the Council's role and work on salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea. They will review current Chinook salmon bycatch numbers, observer coverage in the pollock fishery, current management measures and the next steps the Council is taking to review Chinook salmon bycatch. They will speak for 20 minutes. Since this teleconference is taking place during a Council meeting in Juneau, our speakers will have limited time for questions from the public. It's important that the public calls in prior to 1:00 p.m. so the conference call can begin on schedule.

Following the Chinook salmon bycatch discussion, the teleconference will conclude with the ADFG and USFWS fisheries managers reviewing the 2013 fisheries outlooks, preseason management strategies, and current Yukon River conditions.

Subsequent teleconference calls will focus on inseason run assessment, management actions, fishing schedules, fishing conditions, and what fishing families are doing to supplement their reduced Chinook salmon harvest. Chinook salmon bycatch will not be formally addressed during the teleconferences again until in July, when invited guests such as Nicole Kimball and Diana Stram will spend more time talking about this important issue.

We look forward to your participation in these calls. For more information please contact Jill Klein with YRDFA at 1-877-999-8566, extension 102.

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